

**Director's Report  
For  
June 12, 2013**

**Board of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
Play. Everyday.**

*The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to preserve our parks and open spaces and provide essential recreational programs and cultural services in a safe, professional and friendly manner*

**Projects**

**1. DNR Stewardship Grant:**

1. Waiting to hear from DNR – Expect September for grant award announcements.

**2. Laurel Clark Fountain:**

1. Operating normally.
2. Normal daily operations will begin after the First Friday celebration on June 7.

**3. Parks Paving Projects for 2013 (No change since May 2013)**

1. Chavez Parking Lot Rehabilitation. Lot redesign is underway – have preliminary drawings.
2. ADA asphalt upgrades – parks not yet determined.
3. Graceland Cemetery – continue with road to pond area.
4. Zoo – replace existing asphalt with concrete – Australian Exhibit.

**4. Painting of Handrail at Gaslight Pointe Phase II of III:**

1. Project out for bid. Project completion will be mid-July.

**5. Lockwood Softball Diamond: (No change since May 2013)**

1. The softball diamond restoration is scheduled for late August of 2013.
2. The DNR has agreed the softball fence replacement will not cause a disturbance of the landfill and will not require environmental permits. Soils removed must be properly land-filled. Limited cost of land-filling was included in the original budget estimate.

**6. Playground Equipment Replacement:**

1. Equipment has been ordered for Parker & Heck Parks. Deliveries expected in May.
2. Hantchel & Hamilton Parks – CDBG parks and play equipment improvement designs will be complete before the end of June for July bidding & September installations.

**7. Park Electrical Upgrades:**

1. Island Park North Softball Lights: Project is at the design engineer. Expect final plans and specifications by mid-July, August bidding & October installation.
2. Washington Park Bowl Lighting Electric Service: Designs are complete and is currently out for bids. Expect to be complete mid – July.
3. Humble Lighting Electric Service: Designs are complete and is currently out for bids. Expect to be complete mid – July.
4. LED Light Installations at Lockwood & Recreation Service: Lights have been ordered directly from Cree Lighting. Designs are complete and are currently out for bids. Expect to be complete mid – July.

**8. ADA Updates for 2013:** (No change since May 2013)

1. ADA updates for West, Hantchel & Hamilton will be completed this year.

**9. Cemeteries:**

1. Mound:

- a. Chapel Restroom: Plans have been approved by the Cemetery Commission. Construction will begin in phases starting at the end of June for completion by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

2. Graceland:

- a. The Graceland Pond restoration has been shifted to DPW/Storm Water for a 2014/15 restoration project. (No change since May 2013)
- b. Section 23 drawings have been approved by the Cemetery Commission. The construction will be completed in phases. Currently the concrete portion of the project is out for bid. Concrete should be installed by mid-July. Full project should be complete by November.
- c. Fence: The final section of fence replacement along Graceland Blvd is currently out for bid. This section will complete the 10 year chainlink to decorative fence replacement plan.

**10. Golf Courses:**

1. Johnson: The Tee & Green Rehab Project has been awarded to Golf Creations of Marengo, IL for \$230,000. The Tee & Green and the Stream Bank Re-Hab projects at Johnson Park are set to begin on August 5 and completion of September 30. The holes should be ready to play in spring of 2014.
2. Washington: No Update.
3. Shoop: No Update.

**11. Wustum:**

1. HGA Architects have been hired to develop a concept plan to bring the museum facility into ADA compliance.

**12. Zoo:**

1. Completed 2013 concrete & asphalt inspection. Projects will be drawn & put out for bids in June.
2. Have reviewed the fence repair & replacement requests with Jay Christie. We will have plans and specifications complete by the end of June for July bidding.

**Recreation**

1. The Pershing Park Boat Launch project to temporarily extend four lanes is now complete with the help from DPW as of May 31. There are now a total of 7 lanes for boaters to launch from. The kiosk is also up and running to provide boaters with daily launch passes.
2. Laurel Clark Fountain is up and running. PRCS will be once again working with the DRC Ambassador's as attendants at the fountain. They will begin their watch starting Monday, June 10.
3. Born Learning Trails were installed at both West Park and North Beach Park at the end of April. The Grand Opening was scheduled on Saturday, May 11 at North Beach Park. A good number of participants showed up even with the bad weather.

4. There are a total of 48 sand volleyball teams registered to play at North Beach this summer. League play begins the week of June 2.
5. All adult and youth summer schedules can be found on our website
6. A total 45 playground staff and leaders are ready to begin the summer. Orientation is scheduled for June 11, 12, 13, and 14. Playgrounds open on June 17 and include all of our popular games activities and field trips, along with new and exciting programs including Zumbatomics, UW-Extension Nutrition presentations, Harry Potter Days, and Tennis Clinics.
7. There are over 250 registered participants for our Kiddie Korner, Future, SOAS I & SOAS II Playground Program. These participants will attend playgrounds at 9 different sites throughout Racine. Parents have a chance to register for either an AM or PM time slot. The program is set to begin Monday, June 17.
8. Our Drop-In Traditional Playground is made of 10 different sites throughout Racine. This program is for boys/girls ages 7 – 13. This program also starts on Monday, June 17.
9. The Spring Fever instructional/scrimmage program ended on a high note with a full scrimmage and special activities on the final night. We are already thinking of ways to make the program bigger and better next year.
10. Our local Hershey Track & Field meet attracted over 300 athletes and approximately 1500 spectators to the Case High track on Thursday, May 23. The event continues to grow in popularity with local schools including St. Catherine's Middle School and Prairie who entered teams for the first time this year. The district meet is on June 8 at Wauwatosa West High School.
11. Gateway Technical College is once again sponsoring the Lake F/X games tentatively set for July 20. This event takes place at Skateboard Park located in Pershing Park along Lake Michigan.
12. Lifeguard orientation was held on May 20 - 23 and May 28 - 30. 15 of the 17 guards attended the session, which included CPR training, workshops on first aid, do's and don'ts of lifeguarding and guest speakers, Tom Molbeck, Stacy Salvo, Carl Heigl, and Chelsey Bergman from Great Lakes Dermatology.
13. Beaches are set to open on Saturday, June 8. Lifeguards are scheduled from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at North Beach Sunday through Saturday and from 10:00 am to 5:30 pm at Zoo Beach on Saturday and Sunday.

## **Parks**

1. Still working on hiring all of our long seasonal help for the season. This has caused the Parks Division to be backed up in summer preparation (ie, grass cutting, plantings). We should be at full staff soon.
2. North Beach sand was leveled for the summer in mid May.

3. The Forestry crew began their EAB treatments the week of June 3.
4. Matt Koepnick, City Forestry, gave a presentation on Emerald Ash Bore at The Dr. John Bryant Community Center to about 12 participants. Matt's presentation and Q&A went very well.
5. Parks crews installed two more piers at the Pershing Park Boat Launch. With these two piers, there are now 7 lanes for boaters to launch from. Thanks goes out to DPW – Engineering and Harbor Commission for their help in getting this project done
6. A controlled burn was conducted at Samuel Myers Park on Wednesday, May 15 to remove invasive plants called Phragmites. The burn was conducted and monitored by the City of Racine Fire, Health and PRCS Departments. This is the first phase of improving and increasing recreational opportunities along the shoreline of Lake Michigan.

## **Community Centers**

### **A. Dr. MLK**

1. A Mother's Day breakfast was held on Sunday, May 12 from 9:00- 11:30am. Breakfast consisted of bacon, eggs, cinnamon rolls, biscuits, juice and coffee. This was collaborative project between the Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center, Love & Charity and north side/south side outreach programs. A total of 25 mothers and a hand full of children attended the breakfast.
2. Lifeguard orientation was held the week of May 20 - 23 and May 28 - 30. Fifteen of the seventeen Guards attended the session, which included CPR training, workshops on first aid, do's and don'ts of Lifeguarding and guest speakers, Tom Molbeck, Stacy Salvo, Carl Heigl, and a Chelsey Bergman from Great Lakes Dermatology.
3. A boys and girls sleep over was held on Friday, May 31. This is a collaborative project between Daddy's Day Out and Dr. Martin Luther King Community Center. We have 40 youth signed up and 8 staff and volunteers who will stay the night with the youth. There will be various workshops, games, movies, popcorn, and video games. Check in is at 8:00 pm, Check out will be at 8:00 am Saturday morning.
4. 21<sup>st</sup> Century will hold its staff and student games here at the King Community Center starting at 1:30.
5. Staff is getting ready for summer program. The summer lunch program is set to start mid-June. Looking to collaborate with UW Extension to do the nutrition program sometime in July. There are thoughts of starting a summer baseball league and/or camp to teach youth the fundamentals of playing baseball.

### **B. Humble Park**

1. Old Timers Football used Humble Park on Monday, May 6 and 13 for youth football registrations. They are always thankful and have used the center for many years.

2. Youth Softball Coaches meeting was held on Wednesday, May 15 at Humble Park Center. We have 24 teams participating this year. Practices started and games began June 3 at Humble Park. Girls play Monday evenings and Boys Wednesday evenings.
3. Senior Pickelball continues to grow at Humble Park with many new participants.
4. Youth for Christ will be using the Humble Park area for some youth team building activities the week of June 17.
5. Optimist Club will be selling concessions for the youth softball games at Humble Park again this year.

### **C. Cesar Chavez**

1. Paul Ryan held a public listening session at the Chavez Center on Wednesday, May 1. Over 125 people were in attendance and everything went very well.
2. Senior Pickelball continues to grow at the Chavez Center with many new participants.
3. Main Gallery interviews were held the week of May 20 at Chavez Center. We expect to hire approximately 30 – 35 youth with the funding we have available. Programs will be furniture painting, multimedia painting and photography.
4. Lifeguards have been meeting at the Chavez Center the weeks of May 20 and May 28 to prepare for the upcoming beach season.
5. Main Gallery youth will be working with Johnson Wax on building a float this year for the Fourth of July parade. They will begin working week of June 10 with more details to follow.
6. Set up meeting with the Marketing Representative from Dicks Sporting Goods on June 4 to look at sponsorship possibilities for our PRCS programming.

### **D. Bryant**

1. There will be a Boy Scout troop starting on Wednesday, June 19. Our children seem to be excited about this venture.
2. An Emerald Ash Borer informational session was held on Thursday, May 30. Matt Koepnick, City Forester, was the presenter. There were a total of 12 participants.
3. Training for the lunch program is June 6; the Bryant Center serves up to 100 children through this program. The program is set to start mid-June.
4. The children will compete in their final game at Bray Center for the round robin tournament they have been playing in.

5. Juneteenth Day will be held on Saturday, June 15. Preparations are underway for this event scheduled at the center. We have new sponsors on board this year - Grudger Law Offices & US Bank.
6. New programs for the summer include Young Rembrandts, fun with math, spelling bees, table tennis, dodge ball, and much more.

#### **E. Tyler - Domer**

1. Inter-community center basketball league is winding up. We have traveled to the Bray Center for 6 weeks with the city van. We have one team in the championship game on May 30. Next week we will have a pizza party for all the participants.
2. COBY Program is going great with 40 to 60 participants each week. We are anticipating higher numbers when school gets out and both the center staff and COBY staff are ready for the challenge.
3. 1 staff, 4 children from center and J. Brenner went out and delivered flyers to all the houses in the neighborhood to get the word out about our Community Garden Plots that are available. Hoping to get a good response.
4. Community organizations that continue to use the building on a weekly basis: Narcotics Anonymous, Youth for Christ, Park High School transitional program, developmentally disabled from Careers.
5. Boy Scouts will be starting a program in our center providing activities for the boys that would like to participate. This will begin June 20 and run on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am.
6. We are having good participation in our craft classes on Wednesday, usually 10 to 15 kids after school.

#### **F. Marketing**

1. Test runs with website templates are still in progress. Landing and home pages are being created. Once all the landing pages have content the new home page will need to have content added to direct the viewer to those pages. Calendar of events is being developed, and will be filtered to viewer's point of interest.
2. The June Newsletter will be launched the week of June 3. We have generated over 100 subscribers in a month, and are still counting. Sign up can be done by directly entering an email address on the newsletter subscribe prompter, by paper flyer, or through Facebook. Marketing the Newsletter is still in progress, and sign-up forms are being developed for text message and QR Scan. Welcome emails, follow up and other event E-vites are also in the works.
3. A meeting with CAR25 to discuss production is in place. The plan is to produce in June/July.
4. Freelance editor at large, William May, story on Jeannie's program called COBY (Community Outreach Building Youths).

5. Facebook now has 624 likes, up from 343 in Feb. We held a mini contest to congratulate the 500<sup>th</sup> person to “like” our page. The winner will be in to pick up the candy she won and to also sign up her child for Playgrounds!
6. PRCS is on Twitter @RacinePRCS.

## G. Program Outreach

1. Registration has begun for Mad Science. The youth program will host a series of day camps in July, in Rm. 130, once a week for 25 kids. Information is on Facebook and our website.
2. Registration has begun for Young Rembrandts. The youth program will host a series of day camps in June at the Bryant Center. Information is on Facebook page and our website.
3. Mentorship Kenosha/Racine - Discussing opportunities for mentorship programming at our community center locations.
4. Established marketing connections and promoted the Born Learning Trails along with United Way and the project members.
5. Met with the Wild Root Market Coordinator to set up talks, info sessions, and host volunteer trainings on site.
6. Met with the Director of College Connection to establish times to host college info sessions at our community centers.

## H. Special Events

1. July is National Parks and Recreation Month. Established the month’s events and created marketing plan. About National Park & Red Month: “Since 1985, America has celebrated July as the nation’s official Park and Recreation Month. This July, we want everyone talking about what they **love about parks and recreation** and why parks and recreation are so vital in our lives!” We hope to generate this enthusiasm here in Racine.
2. Created an EAB Event on Facebook and contacted Journal Times and others to attend this public information session to understand the EAB effect on our city trees. The event was hosted by Matt Koepnick at the Bryant Center.
3. Day of Caring – United Way 9/23, set up volunteers to assist with PRCS and the cleaning of North Beach.